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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,510	03/09/2004	Ridge Vincent	81092943 / FMC 1645 PUS	2509

28395 7590 07/24/2008

BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C./FGTL
1000 TOWN CENTER
22ND FLOOR
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075-1238

EXAMINER	
YAZBEK, CHEKRI Y	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
4115	
MAIL DATE	**DELIVERY MODE**
07/24/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/708,510	VINCENT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CHEKRI YAZBEK	4115	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 March 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *03/09/04*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is in response to the application filed on 03/09/2004. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 03/09/2004 was filed. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burnard et al. (U.S. patent 6,684,119) in view of Agarwal et al. (U.S. 2003/0101107).

As of claim 1, Burnard discloses a computer-implemented method to facilitate controlling spare parts inventory within a manufacturing plant as a method of providing dynamic material replenishment information via a web site on an internet (col. 2, line 10-11), the manufacturing plant having a number of work-stations at different locations in the plant, by further disclosing accessing the part or component usage data from multiple manufacturing or assembly plant locations (col. 2, lines 44-45), and further discloses the method comprising:

associating each unit of inventory with identification data, a location data, and

operational needs data, where Burnard discloses the method by maintaining a database which comprises relevant usage information for each component or spare part used in assembling a product such as part number, supplier identification code, and time and date of usage (col. 3, lines 49-52), the operation needs data representing a quantity of spare part units needed for desired plant manufacturing levels, where Burnard further discloses that the supplier uses the real time part usage information and adjusts the material, or spare, or component parts replenishment into the manufacturing plant in order to avoid material outage or overage conditions; meeting optimal supply (col. 6, lines 34 and 39-40), Burnard further discloses the storing of inventory data at a common base station, by stating a material storage system, comprising the components or parts information, in communication with the material tracking computer system (col. 3 lines, 54-56), the inventory data representing units of spare parts inventory according to their identification, location, and operational needs data, where Burnard discloses the material tracking system maintains a database containing relevant usage information among it an identification code, a part number and other information for each component part used in assembling the product (col. 3, lines 48-50);
transmitting signals representative of a spare parts search request from a user to the base station, whereby Burnard further discloses the material storage system, being the common supply entity, receives a signal form the material tracking computer system indicating that a component part or a container of many component parts stored in the material storage area, is required or requested by an operator or user at the assembly line (col.3, lines 56-60);

Although Burnard does not disclose in detail the method of processing the signals with the inventory data to obtain a search result, but he teaches reception of the signal by the material storage system which comprises inventory data of component parts available from the material tracking system (col. 3, lines 56-58), and Burnard does not exclusively disclose the search result representing the identification and location data for each unit in the spare parts search request and also an available quantity of the spare part units relative to the quantity of spare part units needed for the desired manufacturing levels, but explains a request by the assembly line requiring a container of material or many component parts or a single component part (col. 3, lines 25-26) and material is supplied to the plant based on actual and predicted needs or optimal quantities (col. 1, lines 28-29), and Burnard further teaches that the material tracking system maintains a database containing relevant usage information for each component part (col. 3, lines 48-50); and Burnard further teaches transmitting the search results to the user by stating delivery of the container of material from the storage area to the assembly line as a result of communication between the material tracking system and the material storage system (col. 3, lines 60-63). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to deduce that the inventory data is stored in the material storage system and the signal, received from the material tracking system to display or request of a container or quantity of spare or component parts at a location in the assembly line is processed by the tracking computer system. As a result, displaying the detailed information regarding a particular spare part and delivering the container comprising a requested quantity.

As of claim 2, Burnard discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising decentralizing the spare parts inventory by dispersing the spare parts throughout the different workstation locations in the manufacturing plant by stating that frequently, the material received from the supplier is moved directly to the line not to the storage unit to reduce handling explaining a decentralized system (col. 1, lines 29-31), and discloses making a selection or request by the user to implement the replenishment process (col. 4, lines 46-47) for locating and retrieving the dispersed spare parts by transmitting search requests to the base station. However, Burnard discloses the method of lean manufacturing which relies on communication of information between the assembly line and the supplier (col. 1, lines 53-55). Burnard further discloses the goal of lean manufacturing by having the right material at the assembly plant locations, at the right time based on actual built information not on estimates and advantageously manage in-plant material inventory (col. 2, lines 51-56). This replenishment process will avoid material outage or overage supply (col. 6, lines 38-39). Furthermore Agarwal teaches locating and retrieving the excess inventory levels at different locations by transferring the optimal quantity to the appropriate location (0019). And further explains the purpose of lateral transfer of parts among workstations avoiding a centralized storage system as sporadic need requirements occur (0011). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to consider the base station as the storage system and the material handler efficiently delivering the single component part or container of many component parts from the storage area to the assembly line at different locations based on actual or predicted usage information. By using the transfer

method of similar parts from one location of excessive level to another location of lower than optimal level. It is obvious that the process occurs by a search order or request to check the inventory data at the storage area or base station as explained by Burnard, or node as explained by Agarwal.

As of claim 3, Burnard does not exactly disclose the method of claim 2 wherein dispersing the spare parts comprises checking out the spare parts from a plant crib; Burnard teaches about a material handler to deliver the component parts from the storage area to the assembly line (col. 3, lines 60-63), and further teaches about the identification and location data associated with the spare parts when checked out by stating that the replenishment information is provided for each component part assembled on the specific product (col. 4, lines 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to consider that dispersing means distributing after checking out or requesting delivery of component parts along with the information pertinent to the specific component part, to be delivered to the right location or workstation on the assembly line after consent or message allowed by the material tracking system.

As of claim 4, Burnard discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising associating vendor data with each spare part, where the vendor is the supplier who has access to component or spare part usage data from multiple manufacturing or assembly plant locations (col. 2, lines 44-45), and further discloses the vendor data stored with the inventory data for representing vendors to be used for purchasing new spare parts by

explaining the advantage where the supplier can manage their own in-plant material inventory and implement lean manufacturing strategies for dynamic material replenishment (col. 2, lines 55-57), and further teaches the search result also representing the vendor data where the dynamic material replenishment information as a result of a request to replenish component parts, where vendors or suppliers are offered access to usage data of parts at multiple assembly line locations (col. 2, line25-26), where lean manufacturing relies on communication of information between the manufacturing plant and the supplier (col.1, lines 53-56), among it sharing available inventory to maintain minimal to optimal level of inventory (col.1, lines 27-29).

As of claim 5, Burnard does not disclose the method of claim 3 further comprising purchasing new spare parts through a blanket purchase order represented in the vendor data, but teaches that a supplier will ship extra material to the plant in order to protect the plant from a material shortage, which reduces the effectiveness of lean manufacturing, and extra related costs will result from a quick reaction by the supplier or vendor to variations in the manufacturing schedule (col.1, lines 43-52), which for one of ordinary skill in the art will deduce an obvious interruption in the supplier inventory database.

As of claim 6, Burnard discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising associating key contact data with each spare part, by selecting the component or spare part from the list of materials for obtaining tracked real time material usage information by the user (col. 8, lines 4-6), and further discloses the key contact data stored with the

inventory data for representing persons within the manufacturing plant responsible for controlling removal of spare parts from the work stations associated with each location data, by identifying a user includes the step of checking a user identification code to determine permission to access the material usage information, although Burnard does not explicitly disclose the removal of spare parts, but mentions delivery from the storage area to the assembly line by a material handler (col. 3, lines 60-63), and mentions a material carrier who transports material between the supplier and the assembly plant with the use of the associated information (col.6, lines 41-43), and Burnard teaches the search result also representing the key contact data as allowing the user to use the tracked real-time material usage in replenishing the material to the selected manufacturing plant (col. 8, line 67 and col. 9, lines 1-2). Furthermore, Agarwal teaches the lateral transfer of spare parts within different locations in the assembly line (0011); it would be obvious for someone of ordinary skill in the art to consider removing parts within an assembly line and keeping the inventory updated within the tracking system and updating the usage information for each spare part as far as the fields pertinent to location and the user identification code.

As of claim 7, Burnard discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising processing in the base station the inventory data for automatically generating a usage report; as the material tracking system which includes a material storage system and operatively in communication with it (col. 3, lines 54-56) and further discloses the material tracking system maintaining a database containing relevant usage information for each

component part used in assembling the product (col. 3, lines 48-50).

As of claim 8, Burnard discloses the method of claim 7 wherein generating the usage report comprising representing parts needed by using the tracked real-time material usage information by the user in replenishing the spare part or parts to the selected assembly plant or location within (col. 8, lines 16-18), and Burnard further discloses the parts need representing only the spare parts having available quantities which are less than the quantity needed for the desired plant manufacturing levels by allowing a user to select one or more component part to obtain real-time usage information from a displayed list (col. 6, lines15-18) and further explains that the supplier uses the usage information and adjusts the component parts replenishment in order to avoid outage conditions (col. 6, lines 38-39).

As of claim 9, Burnard discloses the method of claim 7 wherein generating the usage report relates to an excessive usage by using the tracked real-time material usage information by the user in replenishing the spare part or parts to the selected assembly plant or location within (col. 8, lines 16-18), and Burnard further discloses the excessive usage representing only the spare parts having available quantities which are greater than the quantity needed for the desired plant manufacturing levels by allowing a user to select one or more component part to obtain real-time usage information from a displayed list (col. 6, lines15-18) and further explains that the supplier uses the usage information and adjusts the component parts replenishment in order to avoid overage conditions (col. 6, lines 38-39).

As of claim 10, Burnard discloses the method of claim 7 wherein generating the usage report relates to a historical usage by designating that the material tracking system maintains a database containing relevant usage information for each component part used in assembling the product such as time and date of usage among other identification information (col. 3, lines 48-53), and further discloses the historical usage representing usage of the spare parts relative to the operational needs data and a historical period of time by selecting a time range for which the supplier wishes to view, through a display, the usage relevant to its own business needs (col. 6, lines 23-26).

As of claim 11, Burnard discloses the method of claim 7 wherein generating the usage report relates to a critical parts list by displaying a list of component parts, with real time usage information, on the display device (col. 6, lines 15-17), the critical parts list representing spare parts critical to the operational needs data; where Burnard discloses the particular list by selecting the component parts from the list of materials for obtaining tracked real-time material usage information by the user (col. 8, lines 4-6).

As of claim 12, Burnard discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising retrieving a spare part from one of the workstations based on the location data by claiming a material tracking device to acknowledge use of a component part on an assembly line (col. 10, lines 1-3), returning a bar code card to a drop-box for indicating retrieval of the spare part by mentioning that the material tracking device is a card reader or bar code reader (col. 3, lines 27 and 32), the bar code card including the identification and location data for the spare part by mentioning the card reader reads a bar code card or

material inventory card included in a container of material or component parts and removed at a certain point (col. 3, lines 33-34), scanning the bar code card and transmitting signals representing bar code data to the base station by reading an affixed bar code label on a container or component part being (col. 3, lines 33-34) in communication with the material storage system comprised in the material tracking system (col. 3, lines 54-56), processing the signals for automatically updating in the base station the available quantity of the retrieved spare part by Burnard stating reception of a signal by the material inventory storage system from the material tracking system indicating requirement of a component part at the assembly line (col. 3, lines 56-60) and real time usage information is dynamically updated as material or component parts are used on the product at the assembly line (col. 5, lines 27-29).

As of claim 13, Burnard discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising storing inventory data for multiple manufacturing plants, transmitting signals representing a plant or global search, the plant search restricted to the plant originating the signals and spare parts located therein, the global plant search including each of the multiple manufacturing plants and spare parts located therein by stating and providing dynamic production material replenishment information and tracking real-time usage of material or component parts used for a product at a plurality of manufacturing plants and replicating it on a global business network in communication with the local business network (claim 1).

As of claim 14, Burnard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the location data

includes a plant name by selecting one of the assembly plants (col. 7, line 65), but does not exclusively disclose a department name, a workstation location, and a drawer position, but mentions the assembly line which would be obvious for someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add fields on the usage information display or report containing locations and sub-locations pertinent to the assembly line and part of the material replenishment system, and Burnard discloses an operator name by identifying if a user has permission to access the material usage information (col. 7, lines 1-2).

As of claim 15, Burnard discloses the method of claim 14 further comprising transmitting a signal representing a security data with the search request, the security data representing which location data are represented in the search result by mentioning the advantage of providing dynamic material replenishment information includes web site security so that only the actual supplier of material can access the part usage information (col. 2, lines 46-49).

As of claim 16, Burnard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the identification data , as being the information contained in the database (col. 3, line 51), includes a keyword, a part description, a remark, a manufacturer part number, a vendor part number, a barcode number, a vendor name, a vendor contact link, a unit cost, a critical designation, and a blue print number, where Burnard discloses among other information a part number, a supplier identification code (col. 3, lines 51- 52), a bar-code label (col. 3, line 33), a supplier computer network (col. 8, line 46). It would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the extra fields mentioned among the information pertinent to the database maintained by the material tracking system.

As of claim 17, Burnard discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising providing multiple computers within the manufacturing plant by stating that the material tracking computer system includes a plurality of local computers (col. 3, lines 45-46), and Burnard further discloses the multiple computers usable by each plant employee for searching for spare parts by stating that as the particular component part is installed on a manufactured product, it is tracked and maintained on the local computer network within the assembly plant for the assembly line (col. 5, lines 20-23), and further discloses each computer includes a graphical user interface to facilitate transmitting and receiving signals from the base station and also to display the search results to the user by stating that the global business network is a centralized server in communication with the local computer network (col. 4, lines 9-10), and is referred to as a host web site providing interactive communication with a visitor or so called user on the assembly line (col. 4, lines 40-43), the communication is facilitated by a series of displayed pages on the display screen whereby users may interact by making selections or requests of component parts from their local computer terminal (col. 4, lines 46-47).

As of claim 18, Burnard discloses a computer-implemented method to facilitate controlling spare parts inventory within a manufacturing plant as a method of providing dynamic material replenishment information via a web site on an internet (col. 2, line 10-

11), the manufacturing plant having a number of work stations at different locations in the plant by further disclosing accessing the part or component usage data from multiple manufacturing or assembly plant locations (col. 2, lines 44-45), Burnard further discloses the method comprising:

storing inventory data at a common base station by stating a material storage system comprising the components or parts information in communication with the material tracking computer system (col. 3, lines 54-56), the inventory data representing units of spare parts inventory according to identification, location, and operational needs data where Burnard discloses the material tracking system maintains a database containing relevant usage information among it an identification code, a part number and other information for each component part used in assembling the product (col. 3, lines 48-50);

transmitting signals representative of a spare parts search request from a user to the base station whereby Burnard further discloses the material storage system, being the common supply entity, receives a signal form the material tracking computer system indicating that a component part or a container of many component parts stored in the material storage area, is required or requested by an operator or user at the assembly line (col.3, lines 56-60);

although Burnard does not disclose in detail the method of processing the signals with the inventory data to obtain a search result, but he teaches reception of the signal by the material storage system which comprises inventory data of component parts available from the material tracking system (col. 3, lines 56-58), and Burnard does not

exclusively disclose the search result representing the identification and location data for each unit in the spare parts search request and also an available quantity of the spare part units relative to the quantity of spare part units needed for the desired manufacturing levels but explains a request by the assembly line requiring a container of material or many component parts or a single component part (col. 3, lines 25-26) and material is supplied to the plant based on actual and predicted needs or optimal quantities (col. 1, lines 28-29), and Burnard further teaches that the material tracking system maintains a database containing relevant usage information for each component part (col. 3, lines 48-50);

and Burnard further teaches transmitting the search results to the user; by stating delivery of the container of material from the storage area to the assembly line as a result of communication between the material tracking system and the material storage system (col. 3, lines 60-63). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to deduce that the inventory data is stored in the material storage system and the signal, received from the material tracking system to display or request of a container or quantity of spare or component parts at a location in the assembly line is processed by the tracking computer system. As a result, displaying the detailed information regarding a particular spare part and delivering the container comprising a requested quantity;

and automatically updating in the base station the available quantity of spare parts by Burnard disclosing reception of a signal by the material inventory storage system from the material tracking system indicating requirement of a component part at the

assembly line (col. 3, lines 56-60) and real time usage information is dynamically updated as material or component parts are used on the product at the assembly line (col. 5, lines 27-29), by retrieving a spare part from one of the workstations based on the location data, where Burnard discloses a material tracking device to acknowledge use of a component part on an assembly line (col. 10, lines 1-3), returning a bar code card to a drop-box for indicating retrieval of the spare part by Burnard mentioning that the material tracking device is a card reader or bar code reader (col. 3, lines 27 and 32), and further discloses the bar code card including the identification and location data for the spare part by designating that the card reader reads a bar code card or material inventory card included in a container of material or component parts and removed at a certain point (col. 3, lines 33-34), Where scanning the bar code card and transmitting signals representing bar code data to the base station is disclosed by Burnard by reading an affixed bar code label on a container or component part being (col. 3, lines 33-34) in communication with the material storage system comprised in the material tracking system (col. 3, lines 54-56), and further disclosing:

processing the signals for automatically updating in the base station the available quantity of spare parts by stating reception of a signal by the material inventory storage system from the material tracking system indicating requirement of a component part at the assembly line (col. 3, lines 56-60) and real time usage information is dynamically updated as material or component parts are used on the product at the assembly line (col. 5, lines 27-29).

As of claim 19, Burnard discloses a computer-implemented method to facilitate controlling decentralized spare parts inventory within a manufacturing plant by stating a method of providing a dynamic production material replenishment information via an internet (col. 2, lines 16-18), the manufacturing plant having a number of work stations at different locations in the plant by accessing the part or component usage data from multiple manufacturing or assembly plant locations (col. 2, lines 44-45),
the method comprising:
decentralizing the spare parts inventory by dispersing the spare parts throughout the different workstation locations in the manufacturing plant by stating that frequently, the material received from the supplier is moved directly to the line not to the storage unit to reduce handling explaining a decentralized system (col. 1, lines 29-31) to promote lean manufacturing, where Burnard further discloses the goal of lean manufacturing by having the right material at the assembly plant locations, at the right time based on actual built information not on estimates and advantageously manage in-plant material inventory (col. 2, lines 51-56). This replenishment process will avoid material outage or overage supply (col. 6, lines 38-39) by making the spare parts available where needed without requiring a crib system to checkout the spare parts where Burnard further disclose the advantage of lean manufacturing strategy is that the inventory of material within a plant is minimized and that material is supplied based on actual and predicted needs, and the material is received and moved directly to the line, therefore avoiding storage (col. 1, lines 27-31);
Burnard further discloses the storing of inventory data at a common base station, by

stating a material storage system, comprising the components or parts information, in communication with the material tracking computer system (col. 3 lines, 54-56), the inventory data representing units of spare parts inventory according to identification, location, and operational needs data where Burnard discloses the material tracking system maintains a database containing relevant usage information among it an identification code, a part number and other information for each component part used in assembling the product (col. 3, lines 48-50);

transmitting signals representative of a spare parts search request from a user to the base station, whereby Burnard further discloses the material storage system, being the common supply entity, receives a signal form the material tracking computer system indicating that a component part or a container of many component parts stored in the material storage area, is required or requested by an operator or user at the assembly line (col.3, lines 56-60);

Although Burnard does not disclose in detail the method of processing the signals with the inventory data to obtain a search result, but he teaches reception of the signal by the material storage system which comprises inventory data of component parts available from the material tracking system (col. 3, lines 56-58), and Burnard does not exclusively disclose the search result representing the identification and location data for each unit in the spare parts search request and also an available quantity of the spare part units relative to the quantity of spare part units needed for the desired manufacturing levels, but explains a request by the assembly line requiring a container of material or many component parts or a single component part (col. 3, lines 25-26)

and material is supplied to the plant based on actual and predicted needs or optimal quantities (col. 1, lines 28-29), and Burnard further teaches that the material tracking system maintains a database containing relevant usage information for each component part (col. 3, lines 48-50); and Burnard further teaches transmitting the search results to the user by stating delivery of the container of material from the storage area to the assembly line as a result of communication between the material tracking system and the material storage system (col. 3, lines 60-63). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to deduce that the inventory data is stored in the material storage system and the signal, received from the material tracking system to display or request of a container or quantity of spare or component parts at a location in the assembly line is processed by the tracking computer system. As a result, displaying the detailed information regarding a particular spare part and delivering the container comprising a requested quantity.

As of claim 20, Burnard does not exactly disclose the method of claim 19 wherein dispersing the spare parts comprises initially checking out the spare parts from a plant crib, the plant crib for receiving the spare parts from the vendor where Burnard teaches a material carrier for transporting material between the supplier and the assembly plant (col. 6, lines 42-43) and a material handler for delivering the material from the storage area to the assembly line (col. 3, lines 60-62), and further teaches the identification and location data being associated with the spare parts when checked out, by stating that the replenishment information is provided for each component part assembled on the specific product (col. 4, lines 1-2). It would have been obvious to one

of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to consider that dispersing means distributing after checking out or requesting delivery of component parts along with the information pertinent to the specific component part, to be delivered to the right location or workstation on the assembly line after a request is validated or a message is allowed by the material tracking system.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Luce et al., U.S. patent 7,356,558

Welt, U.S. patent 7,184,987

Maki, U.S. 2002/0052715

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHEKRI YAZBEK whose telephone number is 571-270-5490. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bradley B. Bayat can be reached on 571-272-6704. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Chekri Yazbek

/Bradley B Bayat/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4115